



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Northwestern Division

# News Release

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## Corps leader appointed to rank of Brigadier General

**Portland, Ore.** – Col. William E. Rapp, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Northwestern Division, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Army in a formal ceremony today at the Gus J. Solomon U.S. Courthouse. The commanding general of the Corp's South Pacific Division, Brig. Gen. John McMahon, hosted the event.

As commander of the Corps' Northwestern Division, BG Rapp oversees a 4,700-strong workforce and a combined \$3.2 billion program in civil works, military construction and environmental restoration. Five district offices, including the Walla Walla District office, implement program activities. Prior to his current assignment, Rapp held a number of stateside and overseas command and staff positions, including a 12-month tour of duty as Director of the Commander's Initiatives Group for the Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

Rapp has a master's degree and doctorate in Political Science from Stanford University as well as a master's in National Security Policy from the U.S. Army War College. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Virginia.

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**Editor's Note:** The first general officer insignia was established by general order on July 14, 1775, authorizing blue or pink ribbands. Stars were first used to identify general officers in 1780 when it was prescribed that Major Generals would wear two stars and Brigadier Generals one star on each epaulette. Three stars were established in 1798 for the rank of Lieutenant General and were worn by the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Washington. Four stars were authorized for the rank of General when the rank was established by Act of Congress on July 25, 1866. Grant was the first officer of the Army to hold the rank of General and to wear the insignia of four silver stars. (*from the Institute of Heraldry*)